

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES – MARCH 17, 2004

Chairman Tim Lambert called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from February 2004 Meeting

- February meeting minutes were approved with changes.
 - 1) Page 4 under “Maryland Farm Bureau Update” should be HB 1166 instead of HB166.
 - 2) Page 3 under “2003 Wildlife Advisory Commission Working Agenda” should be March 17th instead of March 19th.
 - 3) Page 1 under “Introduction of New Commissioners” should be Reisterstown not Randallstown.

Conservationist of the Year, Farmer, and Employee of the Year

- Presentation by Bob Beyer, Associate Director of Game Program
- Tracey Spencer will forward last year’s memo to WAC. Mr. Beyer handed out Memorandum dated March 15, 2004 referencing Conservationist, Farmer, and Employee of the Year nominations for 2003. [Attachment A] Commissioners need to return forms to Mr. Bob Beyer.

DNR Legislative Agenda and Update

- List of all members of the House Environmental Matters (ENV), Senate Economic, Health, Environmental Affairs (EHEA), and other legislative standing committee membership will be sent to WAC.
- Director Paul A. Peditto and Associate Director Mark Hoffman reviewed all bills, including updates on bill.
- Director Paul A. Peditto gave kudos to WAC members who had weighed in on legislative and budget issues; especially, Dr. Joe Lamp for his efforts.
- Discussion regarding the need to reinforce the fact that “wildlife” is a social benefit; and the need to ensure broad funding from a variety of sources not just hunters.
- WAC members will receive press releases and notices of public hearings.
- Hunting Regulation Update – Some changes were made to the stakeholders proposals; especially, the part on Maryland’s deer proposals.

State Forest & Park Service Update

- A presentation by Dorna Cooper, Records Supervisor
- New fees brochure was distributed.
 - 1) Discussion regarding efforts of user fees and the public’s reaction.
 - (a) Commissioners had questions on why SFPS can establish fees without legislative authority and WHS cannot.
 - (b) WHS has to go through legislative process because of the restriction in Maryland’s constitution.

Migratory Game Bird Advisory Committee Update

- A presentation by Larry Hindman, Waterfowl Project Leader
- The Migratory Game Bird Committee met on March 16th at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. The committee received a presentation about Food Habits and Movements of Sea Duck Research by Dr. Matt Perry.
- Mourning Dove Management
 - 1) Mourning Doves Banding Project going forward. Project objective is to provide improved information on mourning dove harvest rates to improve management.
 - 2) 16K doves were banded in Eastern Management Unit states. Ninety-two percent of the band recoveries of Maryland-banded doves were recovered in Maryland.
- Winter Waterfowl Survey:
 - 1) Reduced coverage due to funding restrictions from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).
 - 2) Larry Hindman distributed the survey results. [Attachment B]
 - (a) Dabbling ducks and total duck species numbers were up.
 - (b) Group discussion regarding the changes in survey numbers for Scaup (up) and Canada geese (down).
 - (c) Canada Goose Atlantic Population is doing well.
 - (d) Snow geese population is up again this year.
- Mute Swan Management – Maryland and other states will not receive a depredation permit from the USFWS to control mute swans this spring.
 - 1) Lengthy discussion on the status of mute swans management and implications of the recent lawsuit.
 - 2) The Department will not be authorized to addle eggs and/or destroy nests of mute swans.

- Pintail Project – Six states have marked about 40 female pintails to determine breeding area affiliation, migration corridors, timing and staging areas. Five female pintails were marked in Maryland with satellite radio transmitters. Movement of the birds can be viewed on the Wildlife and Heritage web page.
- Captive Reared Mallards
 - 1) To minimize the effect of private bands on the reporting rate of USFWS bands, the committee recommended that the banding of ducks on Regulated Shooting Area's (RSA's) be prohibited.
 - 2) The committee also recommended removing the requirement to identify all boundaries of Commercial RSA's. Marking would only be required at entrances as is currently done on on-commercial RSAs.

Urban Wildlife Subcommittee Update

- Presentation by Commissioner Joseph Lamp and Chairman Tim Lambert
- Urban Wildlife Subcommittee concepts have been in the making for 1 ½ to 2 years.
 - 1) The genesis of this subcommittee is from the Non-Lethal Task Force.
 - (a) There was a lengthy discussion regarding purpose and value of time
 - (b) Commissioner Adams acknowledged the purpose for such subcommittee.
- Motion
 - 1) Commissioner Lamp made motion to adopt this proposal. Commissioner Dollar and Commissioner Adams simultaneously seconded motion.
 - (a) Additional discussion on motion:
 - (i) Chairman Lambert offered why he supports this idea.
 - (ii) Commissioner Dollar said "thank you" to Commissioner Lamp and Chairman Lambert for addressing earlier concerns. Commissioner Dollar raised question on why no reference to "educate" in the mission of Urban Wildlife Subcommittee. Commissioner Dollar added that he supports this so long as it does not break down into debating about hunting.
 - (iii) Group considered whether the Chair of Urban Wildlife Subcommittee should be appointed by WAC or elected by members of the subcommittee. Commissioners discussed membership.
 - (b) Chairman Lambert moved to accept this proposal with changes noted. The vote had no opposition – unanimous vote based on the members present. Motion was carried.

Natural Resources Police Update

- Presentation by Sgt. Charron
- Sgt. Charron had no wildlife updates to share. In response to WAC members' request, Sgt. Charron will compile the data on the breakdown of fishing vs. hunting violations.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update

- Presentation by Kurt Fuchs, Maryland Farm Bureau Representative
- Noted that the trapping and bear bills failed and the Farm Bureau opposed these bills.
- Farm Bureau will examine the issue of Natural Resources Police and Maryland State Police merger and the possible impacts.

Future Agenda Item

- Have Secretary Franks and Assistant Secretary Mike Slattery to attend the April 21st WAC meeting to answer questions.
- Have Teaming with Wildlife lotto memo distributed to all Wildlife Advisory Commissioners. [Attachment C]

Old Business

- Commissioners were reminded of upcoming public meetings on hunting regulations proposals.
- Commissioner Lamp is still trying to catch up with Mr. Charles Garner, will follow-up at a later time.

New Business

- Stakeholders meeting and Bow Season "proposals"
- Initial feedback from bowhunters is that the bow season proposal is not a favorable proposal from their perspective.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Attendance

Members:	L. Adams, C. Dollar, G. Fratz, R. Gregory, L. Julio, T. Lambert, J. Lamp
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Guests:	K. Fuchs
Staff:	R. Charron, D. Cooper, B. Beyer, L. Hindman, M. Hoffman, P. Jayne, B. King, P. Peditto
Absent:	R. Pascal, J. Scarborough, C. Garner